

cigarettes. I urge all members to become co-sponsors of the Cigars Are No Safe Alternative (CANSA) Act of 1998, and to support its passage in the House.

COMMENDING LOCAL UNION 101

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Local Union 101 of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry in Belleville, Illinois on the 100th anniversary of its charter.

Local 101 has been serving the needs of the plumbing and pipe-fitting industry for 100 years. It is made up of plumbers, pipe-fitters, steam-fitters, service-fitters and gas-fitters. These men and women work hard, and they have made a significant difference in the community. In part due to the dedication of the members of Local 101, the Belleville community has one of the highest standards of living in the Metro-East. Local 101 has helped complete the two hospitals in Belleville, the area high school and many other building and infrastructure projects in the community. All projects were completed with the highest quality craftsmanship. Mr. Speaker, Southwestern Illinois is growing rapidly. MidAmerica Airport, MetroLink Light Rail and other economic development projects give the region even more potential for growth and prosperity. Local 101 will continue to play a significant role in the development of the region.

Local 101 was one of the first unions in the area. When Local 101 was chartered on August 17, 1898 it had 23 members. Today it numbers over 200. Local 101 has been instrumental in securing pay equity for its members, health insurance, a 40-hour work week, its own pension plan and a continuous training program. 100 years ago these innovations were unheard of. Today, because of the work of unions such as Local 101, the hardworking men and women in the plumbing and pipe-fitting industry are afforded safe workplaces, equitable pay and worker protections.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Local 101 on its fine history of quality workmanship and its laudable record of promoting workers rights. I congratulate Local 101 on its first 100 years and wish Local 101 and its members well in the years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SMALL WATERSHED REHABILITATION AMENDMENTS OF 1998

HON. FRANK D. LUCAS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the "Small Watershed Rehabilitation Amendments of 1998". This bill will address the serious infrastructure needs of our nation's aging community sponsored—USDA assisted dams.

"The Small Watershed Amendments of 1998" provides a responsible legislative proposal aimed at addressing the infrastructure needs of our aging watershed dams. It defines

the problems, calls for an assessment of the problem, creates a cost-share program to address the need, and authorizes funding of the program.

During the week of July 4th, 1998, a celebration in Cordell, a small farming community in Western Oklahoma, marked the 50th anniversary of America's first United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) floodwater retarding structure. Constructed in 1948, the Cloud Creek Watershed Site #1 was built under the authorization of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (P.L. 534). This authorization was a result of a belief in Congress that rural watershed protection, flood protection, proper land management, and keeping raindrops close to where they fall was best addressed through technical assistance available through the USDA. Works under P.L. 534 were authorized in 11 major watersheds throughout the country. The success of P.L. 534 spawned the enactment of the Pilot Watershed Program in 1953 and the Watershed Protection and Floodwater Protection Act of 1954 (P.L. 566). P.L. 566 is commonly referred to as the USDA Small Watershed Program. Over 10,000 flood retarding structures have been built across the nation under these combined programs.

The Small Watershed Program is one of our nation's most successful public/private partnerships. In all instances, the USDA served as a partner with states and local entities by encouraging sponsorship of sites, providing cost-share funding for construction, doing site and geologic surveys, and providing engineering and design expertise. The local district provided all the land, easements and right of ways, covered local construction costs, managed the contracting process, and continue to operate and maintain completed works.

The Cloud Creek celebration serves as a reminder to all of us that over 1,000 of the structures built under these programs are now over 40 years old. Most of the structural measures built have an evaluated life of fifty years or have been swallowed up by urban development. It is time to address the rehabilitation needs of these aging structures.

Every state in the Union will eventually be impacted by this problem. I would encourage my colleagues to review the legislation, and I look forward to their support.

THE PASSING OF LEOPOLD LEFKOWITZ

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my sad duty to inform our colleagues of the passing of an outstanding, remarkable constituent of my 20th Congressional District of New York, who happened also to be a unique American who in many ways personified the American dream.

Leopold Lefkowitz, known and beloved by his followers as Reb Leibish, was 79 years young when he died this past weekend, but many lifetimes were crammed into his busy, productive life.

He was born in Europe at a time when that continent was just beginning to deal with the devastation of World War One. His family worked diligently to overcome economic hard-

ship, but their labors resulted only in the hard heel of oppression when the Nazis came to power and began their relentless persecution of Jews and other minorities. Leibish Lefkowitz was fortunate enough to escape during World War Two, and he settled with the Hasidic community in Brooklyn, NY.

In those years, Reb Leibish enjoyed great success with a glass company he founded, the Crystal Clear Importing Inc., which was headquartered in Ridgefield, NJ. He and his wife, Dinah, raised two children. As Reb Leibish became more and more prominent in charitable and philanthropic enterprises, Dinah became known as a dynamic industry leader, guiding Crystal Clear Importing to phenomenal growth.

In the early 1970's, when the need to establish a new Hasidic home in upstate New York became apparent, it was Reb Leibish, Leopold Lefkowitz, who founded the Monfield Homes Company which purchased 172 acres in the Town of Monroe. It was his dream that the Hasidic community moving to this new homestead—the Village of Kiryas Joel—would come to live in peace and harmony with their neighbors. This was a goal he worked for from that time until the day of his death.

During the first twenty years of Kiryas Joel's existence, Reb Leibish Lefkowitz served as his community's elected Mayor. In that capacity, he was not only the temporal leader of the Hasidic village, he was also the strong right arm of its religious leaders.

Leibish was president of Brooklyn's Congregation Yetev Lev and the United Talmudical Academy, to which he donated substantial funds over the years. He was well known for his compassion and his charity in helping many people in need throughout the years.

The number of charitable and community service causes in which Leibish Lefkowitz immersed himself is truly awesome. Still legendary is the tale of how he put together a coalition of environmentalists, religious and ethnic leaders, families, and other concerned citizens to successfully fight the construction of a garbage incinerator in the heart of the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn during the early days of Mayor Koch's administration. The incinerator would not only have been a threat to the cause of clean air and to the health of the neighborhood, it would have totally destroyed the cohesiveness of the various ethnic groups who have made that neighborhood famous. Leibish earned the respect not only of Mayor Koch but his entire administration for the masterly, gentlemanly way he revealed the folly of this incinerator plan.

On May 25, 1987, then-Governor Mario Cuomo of New York presented Mr. and Mrs. Lefkowitz with a citation on the occasion of their being feted at the annual Door of Hope Banquet of the Pesach Tikvah Hope Development Company. The Governor noted that: "Reb Leibish has been a recognized and respected leader of the Hasidic community. His numerous leadership positions and organizations include the Presidency of Congregation Yetev Lev D'Satmar and United Talmudical Academy, Founder and Mayor of the Village of Kiryas Joel, Chairman of the Board of United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg, Founder and President of Opportunity Development Association, Founder and President of S.A.T.M.R. School for Special Children, along with contributions to uncounted charitable and educational institutions."